131 length and a mile wide. "Howar" means "Young Camel" and the island was so called because it is similar in shape though smaller than Bahrain, and so was described as its offspring.

There are many other little islands in the Bahrain archipelago ; some contain small villages or fishermen's huts while others are deserted except during the occasional visits of migratory birds or pearl divers who come to the islands during the diving season to draw water from the freshwater springs.

311 Along the northern coast of Bahrain there is a narrow strip of land
137 some three miles wide which is under cultivation. The fertile gardens containing date and loz (Indian almond or Terminalia) pomegranate, banana and fig trees are irrigated from many natural springs and artesian wells. But in the waterless areas south of the cultivation, in the centre of the island, only sparse and hardy desert flora exists. Although this desert may seem bare to the eyes of a visitor accustomed to the lush greenness of Europe or the States, it is in fact covered with a great variety of desert plants which were found, in a recent survey, to include some 200 species.

133 Beyond the cultivated area the land is barren and the landscape consists of low rolling hills with numerous rocky cliffs and dry wadis. Most of the Islands of Bahrain are surfaced with hard limestone rock, covered in many places with sand dunes, and, in the case of the main island, with pre-historic tumuli. From the shore line the topography rises gradually towards the centre where it again drops off into a basin surrounded by steep cliffs. Towards the centre of the basin there is a very pronounced rocky promontory known as "Jebal ad-Dukhan," the "Mountain of Smoke," a name given to it because of the vague and hazy appearance it often presents, particularly during the hot summer months. The Jebal is only 450 feet above sea level and 250 feet above the surrounding plain but often, when mist surrounds its base, it gives the impression of being a considerable mountain.

226 Although Bahrain is a small country yet it displays a very varied
228 landscape and many surprising contrasts between old and new. It is primarily a sea faring state. The brilliant blue and green waters, studded with white sails, which surround the islands provide the people of Bahrain with fish, which they catch from boats and in traps, fresh water, from the submarine springs, coral stone for building and pearls which made Bahrain such an important trading centre in the past.
361 The coastal towns have an attractive appearance. Manama's water front is lined with high white houses and beyond the town date gardens extend in an unbroken line down to the water's edge. Roads in the northern part of Bahrain pass through avenues of tall and stately date palms, bearing great bunches of golden, red and yellow fruit during
133 the summer months. The south of the island is a miniature desert and in the foothills around the Jebal there are many little wadis which
ooo after the rainy season are bright with desert flowers and shrubs. Even

226 There are many different ways of fishing in Bahrain. Most of the fish is caught in "hadhra", fish traps built from palm branches. From the air these traps are a conspicious feature in the Persian Gulf, looking like huge arrow-heads with two long wings and a small circular head set along the shore and pointing out to sea. On closer inspection it can be seen that the sides of the arrow consist of fences built of date branches fastened into the ground and tied with rope, these lead to a circular enclosure at the end of the trap. The principle is simple ; as the tide comes in the fish approach the shore, when the tide recedes it carries them into the arms of the trap and eventually into the trap itself where they are left flapping about in the shallow water. The owner of [423] the trap then comes from the shore and collects the catch. The sites of the traps are very valuable and are registered in the Land Department. Some sites have been sold for as much as 30,000 rupees. Poaching fish in the area of a fish trap is regarded as a serious offence.

Another type of fish trap is like a giant lobster pot, made from wire and as much as eight feet in diameter. This is filled with ground bait, the fish enter it through a narrow funnel in its side and once there they are unable to escape. Fish of many sizes and varieties are caught in these traps, which can be seen on the shore along the Muharraq water front.

Nets of various kinds are used including circular throwing nets and drifters. The sight of an experienced net thrower is always fascinating and fishermen using this form of net can often be seen in the shallow seas to the south of the Manama-Muharraq Causeway. Drifting nets with pieces of date palm bark in place of corks are also popular and are used by the villagers on the coast. Fishing with hook and line is practised mostly by sporting amateurs and those who fish for amusement off the Causeway and elsewhere, The local fishermen depend mainly on traps, nets and Sim.

Sim, which literally means "poison," is the seed of the Persian Lilac tree and is much used in Bahrain during the hot weather. The seed, when dried, is pounded up into a mixture of dead crabs, small fish and paste which serves as bait. The fishermen choose a calm warm day when the tide is coming in and sprinkle the mixture on shallow water so that it will drift over the area where they expect to find fish. After a short wait small fish appear flapping about on the surface, apparently chasing their tails or else diving steeply. Soon the larger fish appear, behaving in the same manner. The fishermen then slip into the sea and set about catching the fish, which is by no means easy, for though the fish are doped they are still able to elude the grasping hands of the fishermen. Sometimes very big hauls of fish are caught in this manner. The effects of the drug are not lasting and the fish who have eluded the fishermen recover and swim away. Although Sim has a stupifying effect on fish it does no harm to people who eat them. Much of the fish which is sold in the markets of Manama, Muharraq and Hedd has been caught in this way.

361 and on the shore there is an old deserted fort which was built by the Omanis during a short period when they occupied the Islands. A [504] ferry service of small sailing boats plies between Muharraq and Arad fort, but to drive round the bay to the fort by car takes less time than crossing by boat.

396 Boat building is one of the few local industries of Muharraq and is carried out along the shores of the town, especially on the eastern coast. Carpenters and shipwrights are apt to extend their work half across the road and when driving a car one often has to avoid sails which are pegged out for joining or for repairs, rope winders, men mending nets or carpenters working on big wooden water tanks for the pearling dhows.

361 178 Many visitors to Bahrain never enter Muharraq and by failing to do so they miss the sight of a comparatively untouched Arab town, a sight that is rapidly becoming rarer in the oil rich Persian Gulf.

HEDD

361 Bahrain's number three town is Hedd. Long and narrow, it is built on a strip of land which juts out into the sea at the south-east end of Muharraq Island. The houses are closely packed together and extend right to the edge of the sea, one road, only just wide enough for motor vehicles, runs through the centre of the town and on each side a labyrinth of narrow lanes leads down to the shore. There are few barastis in Hedd and most of the people live in stone houses ; some of them are large, built by pearl merchants in the days when the pearl industry of which Hedd was an important centre, was flourishing. The bazaar is in the main street and it contains many shops which sell all manner of goods. Water is supplied to the town by several artesian wells.

[162] The population of Hedd is entirely Sunni and predominantly Arab, although a few of the shopkeepers are Persians. It includes Arabs of the Bin Ali, Saada, Mesedem and Musallam tribes who used to be very influential in Bahrain ; the last were once the rulers of Qatar. Hedd was originally a diving town but although it still has much contact with the sea, many of its inhabitants work on shore. Its people have a reputation for intelligence and energy and this is shown by the fact that they have produced better results from their schools than any other community. The town is conspicuously clean, owing partly to the fact that it is surrounded by the sea on three sides.

348 633 Hedd has a handsome new police station, at the entrance to the town, which was completed in 1952, a Municipality and Boys' and Girls' Schools which were opened in 1937 and 1939 respectively. For some years the Muharraq Municipality included Hedd in its activities but in 1945 Hedd formed its own elected Municipal Council with four members. There is also in Hedd a dispensary and a small women's hospital with accommodation for a certain number of in-patients. 226 Hedd is famous for its prawns which are caught in special traps and sent to the fish markets of Manama and Muharraq.

There is a bus service between Hedd and Muharraq and also a few taxi cabs in the town. 494

In addition to the towns of Muharraq and Hedd the island of Muharraq is fringed by many villages ; going north round the coast from Muharraq town they include Busatin, Dair, Raiya, Galali and Arad. The first three villages contain many homes of members of the Ruling Family and are especially popular in the summer when the Muharraq weather is considered superior to that of Manama. Galali is a sizeable village inhabited by fishermen and industrial workers, while Arad is the centre of the agriculture of the island and is built near a large pool in the centre of the date gardens on Arad peninsular. The inhabitants of the village work in the gardens, but on the shores of the Bay near the old Omani fort is a large village built entirely of barastis. In the summer this temporary village is entirely filled with people from Muharraq who spend the nights here, crossing by ferry every day to Muharraq town. 361

In general Muharraq island is very low-lying, so much so that it was thought at one time that there was a danger of the sea affecting the efficiency of the Airport, but this has been removed by pumping stations around the field which remove, when necessary, surplus water from the runways. It was, however, found necessary to build a raised road from Muharraq town to Hedd, for when there was any rain or an exceptionally high tide the road was often blocked. 133 491

UMM ASH-SHAGAR ISLANDS AND UMM ASH-SHIYAIRA

These are the two islands that lie to the south of Hedd town; the former, to the north, is covered with small stone and barasti houses; the second, whose name is a diminutive of the first, contains only barastis and is inhabited by fishermen. 361 101

THE ISLANDS

In addition to these two, there are several other small islands south of Muharraq, of which the three largest, although none of them is more than a few hundred square yards in area, are Halat-as-Suluta, Halat-al-Khulaifat and Abu Mahur.

The first two islands lie to the south of Arad peninsular and at low tide they are joined by a sand-bar which permits walking between them. They contain small villages, whose people derive their livlihood from fishing, and they are lucky enough to have on them fresh water springs. Abu Mahur, the third and largest island, is in fact named after one of the largest of these springs, which is in the sea a short distance from the shore. The fort of Abu Mahur is now in ruins but the island is now used as a quarantine station. 361 226

The fresh water submarine springs south of Muharraq and the manner in which the people obtain water from them has astounded 312

among residents of Bahrain and is filling a long-felt want for an organised centre for the small boat enthusiast. The R.A.F. Club was started in July 1951 mainly to provide a form of recreation for members of the R.A.F. stationed in Bahrain, but later it was found that many of the Britishers and Americans resident in Bahrain were interested in sailing so it was decided to admit fifty civilian members. In August 1952 the membership of the club numbered eighty. 526 575

The Club premises are open daily from noon to 8 p.m. except Fridays and Sundays when they open at 10 a.m. Races are held every week-end and there is a Club Day on the first Friday of each month. At the time of writing there are twelve sailing boats and numerous other craft at the Club, of the sailing boats, four are the property of the club, three loaned to it and the remainder are privately owned. There are also half-a-dozen dinghies, including four 14-foot "G.P. Dinghies" designed by Jack Holt—a class which it is planned to develop and also to encourage among private owner members. Helmsmanship is taught and tests must be passed before members are permitted to take out club boats. Sailing matches are arranged from time to time with the sailing club at Qatar.

The Club buildings are ideally situated in what used to be the B.O.A.C. Marine Airport. The premises are at the end of a short jetty which extends into the sea from a point of the shore of Manama in Quadabiya, and the areas protected from the full strength of the north-west and north winds by the mainland of Bahrain. The Khor Khaliya, the bay to the east of the Club, provides pleasant and safe water for races and the training of beginners. For qualified helmsmen who know these reef-ridden coastal waters there are many sailing excursions round the coast and to nearby islands.

The entrance fee to the R.A.F. Sailing Club for civilian members is 25 rupees with a monthly subscription of 10 rupees, the subscription for officers is *Rs*.5 and for airmen, *Rs*.3. Wives and families of members are included, paying no fees and having no voting rights.

Enquiries about membership of the Club, for which there is a long waiting list, should be made to the Hon. Secretary on forms supplied by him.

Fishing. "A S-T-R-I-K-E—Turn the boat!"; a pause, and then that triumphant warning scream from the reel which is music to all fishermen—"He's on." In Bahrain "he" may be a 7-lb. "Chanad" or a 40-lb Barracuda—they will both take the same 6-inch Wilson spoon or Stewart "wobbler." 526 526

The most popular method of fishing is Trolling, from any motor driven boat which can maintain a trolling speed of about 3-4 knots. A variety of rods are used—from light to heavy—and the humble hand-line is just as effective, although obviously not so much sport. Nickelled spoons, feather jigs and natural bait are the usual lures used for trolling. The best natural bait is a small gar-fish ("silts" in Arabic)

526 about 6-in. to 9-in. long which trolls well because of its streamlined
●226 shape. The fish most commonly caught by trolling are listed hereunder;
[136] those marked with an asterisk have also been reported, but on rare occasions :—

Sea bass.
King Mackerel ("Chanad" or Indian seer).
Leer Fish.
Rock Cod.
Barracuda.
*"Sikkan" (English name unknown but weighs up to 60 lbs.).
*Sailfish.
*Shark (usually sand sharks up to 150 lbs.).
*Bonito.

Bottom fishing in the deeper water a mile or so off the coast, using crab, cuttlefish or large prawn as bait, yields Queen-fish, "Hamriyah" (English name unknown but similar to red snapper) and several kinds of rays, in addition to three or four of the above-listed species caught trolling. Many of these fish weigh 30 to 60 lbs. and give very good sport on a light sea-rod with a reel carrying about 250 yards of cutty hunk or nylon line with 18 or 24 lb. breaking strain. The American type 5-star drag reel is popular for trolling because by insulating the shock of the initial fierce strike, it enables lighter tackle to be used. Sailfish weighing about 55 lb. have been caught near the Black Buoy, the northern entrance marker to the Sitra channel, on at least two authenticated occasions. A game-fishing maxim says that "where there are sailfish, there are marlin" and, although not yet reported in local Bahrain waters, marlin have been seen as near as Umm Said on the east coast of the Qatar peninsular.

Bass (Ar. "Zbaiti"), "Shari" (12-in. long, drab colour), "Saafi" (about 24-in. long, white colour) and a colourful variety of small fish up to 5-6 lb. are caught fishing from the shore at many places around the coast. A trout rod or other light bait-casting rod with a 2½-oz. tip gives excellent sport and can be most exciting when, for instance, a 10 lb. sea bass is hooked and landed, as was done with such tackle in the 1952 season.

The spring and autumn are the best fishing seasons, although fish are sought and caught by the enthusiasts throughout the winter, except during the very cold spells. The hot summer months of July, August and September are the worst or fishing in Bahrain, the Bahrainis say that the fish go out to the deeper water to keep cool, in which they are both missed and envied by the local "Isaac Waltons," left ashore to prepare their tackle for the coming autumn season.

526 *Riding and Racing.*/ Bahrain offers excellent opportunities for
231 riding, but it is only recently that these have been recognised by European and American residents in the Islands. The BAPCO Club has a stable of twelve horses at Awali and riding classes are held for children and adults. In Manama a number of Arab merchants keep horses for

1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

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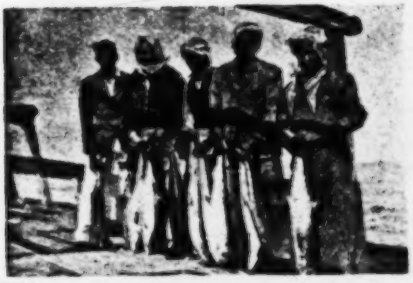

The Results of a Fishing Expedition. Photo: Y. A. Shirawi.

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A Village Pool, North Sitra. Photo: The Author.

Rifaa Ash-Sharqi. Photo: The Author.

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A Bahrain Football Team.

5: Bahrain G-5 (1926-1937) 1937 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

need not be registered, but the existence of a Government title deed ensures that the property is free from claims. Before this rule was made, cases frequently occured in the courts in which the same property was mortgaged to two different people. 647 423

Government Title Deeds. Government title deeds are hand-written documents in Arabic, describing the property with all measurements, boundaries, water rights, and particulars, and on the reverse of each title deed there is a plan of the property with measurements shown in feet and inches. The documents are signed on both sides by the Ruler, the Adviser, and the Superintendent of the Land Department. A person wishing to register his property makes a written application to the Land Registration Department. The property is surveyed by the Land Department surveyors in the presence of the owner or his agent, or, in the case of a sale, in the presence of both parties; if necessary, boundary pillars are erected. A proclamation is then issued, calling on all persons having any claim on the property to submit claims in writing within fifteen to thirty days in the case of a sale, and ninety days in the case of registration of ownership. Claims are forwarded to the Bahrain Court by the Land Department and are decided by the court, which also examines all applications for titles before the final documents are issued. The procedure is somewhat slow, but it is effective, and since it has been in force the number of disputes about land, boundaries, water rights, and fish-traps is gradually declining. Fees are charged for registration of sales according to a sliding scale in the case of sales, depending upon the sale price, and at a fixed rate in the case of registration of ownership. The fees in the latter case are low and do not cover in some cases the cost of the work, but it is to the advantage of the public and the Government that as much property as possible should be registered and, to encourage registration, fees are small. Between 400 and 500 title deeds have been issued by the department every year during the last ten years, and each year there has been a gradual but steady ncrease in applications for registration of ownership.

Fish-Traps. In 1353 (1934) all fish-traps round the coast of Bahrain and the various islands were registered, and rules were laid down with the object of preventing people from erecting and then claiming ownership to fish-traps on Government property. It was enacted that the owners of fish-traps had no rights over the boundaries mentioned in their title deeds, except as far as protection from other persons who might wish to erect fish-traps within the area described. In many cases great pieces of the sea were described in old documents as being the boundaries of a certain fish-trap, and if full ownership to these areas was admitted, valuable land along the foreshore would be lost to the Government if the owners chose to reclaim it. The department dealt with the question of a batch of very valuable traps close to the Bahrain Petroleum Company's pier at Sitrah, and was mainly responsible for arranging a settlement between the Bahrain Petroleum Company and the owners of the traps. 226 ●

Land Leases and Government Forms. In addition to survey and registration work, the Land Department is responsible for leasing Government land, mostly in the neighbourhood of Manamah, to persons who live upon it in Barastis. The rents are very low, but the existence of a regular agreement between the Government and the occupier of the ground ensures that the Government retains its ownership of the land. In Bahrain, ten years' undisputed and uninterrupted occupation is sufficient to establish the ownership of the ground. Printed Government forms, the use of which is compulsory in the case of senads, powers of attorney, and diving 'barwas,' etc., are sold by the Land Department, and every year over 15,000 of these forms are purchased by the public. 427 475

The revenue collected by the Land Department does not cover the cost of the department, but the value of land registration to the Government and to the public is very great. The continued success of the registration work can only be ensured as long as the principle that Government title deeds, when once issued, cannot be contested is maintained. Frequent attempts have been made, usually by influential personages, to set aside title deeds, but so far without success. If one case of this kind should meet with success, the whole system would be seriously affected.

6:Faroughy H-5 (no date)1951 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

228 Because of the vastly more economical methods involved in the production of cultured pearls, the Japanese industry threatened to flood the market, and not only brought down the cost of the pearls but also dissipated some of the glamour which has been for so long associated with them. As a result of this competition the fisheries of Bahrein began to suffer and the income of the Sheik to decline. In turn, however, royalties from oil concessions in some measure supplemented his income.[1]

FISHING

226 [262] Fishing is a major occupation of the Bahreinis and an important source of income. Cooked with dates, onions, and a small quantity of rice and barley, fish, fresh or salt, constitutes the national diet of Bahrein. Indeed, fish which have been dried in the sun form the staple food of the majority of the inhabitants of the Persian Gulf, not only of human beings but of dogs, horses, and camels. Besides the local use of fish, there is also a flourishing trade between the Gulf regions and Mauritius, India, and elsewhere in salt and dried fish, shark fins, fish scales, and fish oil.

The most important fish found in this region are:

Cuttlefish, or sepia octopus (*Tankah* or *Khatak*). Eaten in large quantities by the Arabs, who consider it a great delicacy. It is also the most popular bait for hook and line fishing.

Muraena (*Metut*). Known in Oman as *Kasha*. A small fish-like eel which, dried in the sun, is used as human food, feed for horses and cattle, and as fertilizer.

Porpoise (*Dukhs* or *Dughs*). The oil is used for commercial purposes.

Rock Cod (*Hamam*). Found in shallow waters.

Sardine (*'Oom*). Caught in enormous quantities and used both for food and fertilizer.

Scad, or horse mackerel. (*Sewah*). Salted in large quantities for both home consumption and export.

Seer fish (*Kan'ad*). The *Shirmahee*, or Indian Salmon.

1. See below, p. 45.

6:Faroughy H-5 (no date)1951 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

Salted for export to Mauritius, India and elsewhere. Very abundant.

Shark (*Jurjur* or *Yuryur*). The dried flesh is known as Awal. Sharks are caught in large numbers and are very profitable. The dried fins and tails are exported to Bombay for reexport to China, and the flesh is used as fertilizer. It is eaten by the Arabs, who believe it to have aphrodisiacal properties; the Shiites do not eat it.

Shrimp (*Rubian*). Caught usually in March, April, and May. They are eaten either salted and dried in the sun, or steam-boiled.

Skate and Ray (*Tabak*). Very plentiful. Both fish are eaten by the Sunnites, who believe them to be aphrodisiacs; the Shiites do not eat either of them.

Turtle (*Hamas Gheylam*). The most common species is the Hawksbill. Another, the Carapra, is exported as tortoise shell. The flesh and the eggs are eaten by the Sunnites.

White Pomfret (*Zobeydre*). A plentiful fish, which makes excellent eating.

Barracuda (*Kut*), tunny (*Ghobart*) and ground shark (*Sus*) are also abundant.

The most important fishing seasons are from February to June, and from the end of August to November; during the great pearl diving and date producing seasons, fishing occupies a less important place. Nets, stakes, baskets, hook and line, and spears or harpoons are all used by the Bahreini fishermen, and instead of live bait, a peculiar kind of weed is used. A brief description of each technique follows.

The *net*. Various types and sizes are used. Some are stationary and are gathered in when the tide is out; others are taken out in boats and dragged along, scooping up whatever fish come along. One of the most popular type is the *saliyah*, a circular net weighted with lead, which is cast from the fisherman's shoulders in shallow water, then drawn up by means of a string attached to the center.

The *stake*, or *hadrah*, is a trap constructed usually of palm

226 branches tied together with a string. It is fixed upright by means of ropes and stones and is set out near the shore or on banks which are dry at low tide, with the opening facing landward. At low tide the fish left stranded in the trap are collected.

The *basket,* or *gargur,* is usually constructed of palm branches, split bamboos, or twigs, with funnel shaped holes opening inward in such a way that the fish, once in, cannot get out again. The basket is weighted with stones, and five or six are placed near together in deep water, connected by a stout rope, the last basket with a rope and buoy attached. They are left for two or three days before they are pulled up and the fish removed.

TRANSIT SHIPMENTS

439 Bahrein is an important center of distribution for the commerce of Nejd and Qatif, and a trading place for merchandise from Persia and India. In fact, the islands re-export a third of all imported merchandise, including rice, cotton, sugar, coffee, cattle for slaughter, and pearls from other parts of the Gulf. Trade is carried on principally with India, the Arabian coast, Persia, and Iraq. In 1928 the total value of transit shipments exceeded £3,000,000.

651 439 The customs is an important source of income, and the customs office is controlled by a British Director of Customs. General merchandise, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention of 1861, is subject to a 5% ad valorem tariff and luxury items are taxed 10%. Included in the category of luxuries are: carpets, bicycles, clocks, watches, electrical appliances, motor cars, tires and tubes, typewriters, and perfumes. Alcohol, tobacco, and cigarettes are taxed 15%.

There is no general tariff on exports with the exception of hides and dates, on which the duty is ten rupees per bundle of hides and two rupees per basket of dates. A duty of 2% is charged on all goods re-exported to Saudi Arabia, and 1¾% on those re-exported to other countries on the mainland.

439 Principal imports besides agricultural products are: broadcloth, cotton, woolen and silk goods, and wood, which is used